

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
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S E C R E T STATE 180488

GENEVA FOR USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PARM

SUBJECT: UK PROPOSALS ON ARMS CONTROL DISCUSSIONS IN NATO

REF: USNATO 6921 (141748Z JUL 78)

1. YOU SHOULD INFORM KILLICK WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO REVIEW THE LETTER IN ADVANCE AND ARE GRATIFIED TO SEE
THE UK PROPOSALS ARE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR VIEW
THAT EXISTING NATO MACHINERY CAN COPE WITH THE INCREASED
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NEEDS OF AUGMENTED ARMS CONTROL CONSULTATIONS, AT LEAST
FOR NOW. HOWEVER, WE ARE SKEPTICAL WITH REGARD TO THE
NEED FOR FORMING A SPECIAL MILITARY/CIVILIAN WORKING GROUP
AS SUGGESTED IN THE UK LETTER. WE BELIEVE THE SPC, IS,
MC, AND IMS COULD PROBABLY DEAL WITH AUGMENTED CONSULTA-
TIONS THROUGH EXISTING PROCEDURES. HOWEVER, WE WILL BE
HAPPY TO LISTEN TO VIEWS OF OTHER ALLIES ON THIS POINT.

2. FYI. WE COULD JOIN A CONSENSUS IF ONE DEVELOPS ON NEED TO FORM AN SPC WORKING GROUP AS SUGGE-TED BY UK BUT PREFER TO SEE WHAT OTHER ALLIES THINK OF THE IDEA BEFORE GIVING FIRM ENDORSEMENT. ALSO, WE WOULD PREFER NOT RPT NOT TO RENAME ANY SUCH WORKING GROUP THE "ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE" AS THIS MIGHT TEND TO GIVE THE GROUP A STRONGER SEPARATE INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY THAN WE

WISH TO ENCOURAGE AT THIS POINT. FINALLY, AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, WE DO NOT RPT NOT AT THIS TIME WISH TO CONSULT ON SALT OR GRAY AREA SYSTEMS IN THE CONSULTATIONS FRAMEWORK SUGGESTED BY THE UK. END FYI.

CHRISTOPHER

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